Special Programs

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)
Early Childhood Endorsement Program (ECEP)

GREAT NEWS! **VDSS EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM IS EXPANDING!**

The VDSS Early Childhood Endorsement Program is expanding! In addition to the previously offered courses, **25 all-new classroom-based and online courses** have been developed to provide enhanced professional development opportunities for early childhood professionals in Virginia.

The Early Childhood Endorsement Program now offers four endorsements:

1. Infant and Toddler Endorsement
   (for professionals working with infants and toddlers)
2. Preschool Endorsement
   (for professionals working with preschool children)
3. Early Childhood Endorsement I (for professionals working with infants, toddlers, and preschool children)
4. Early Childhood Endorsement II (for professionals working with infants, toddlers, and preschool children)

All of the Endorsements can be valuable as:

1. Entry-level credentials for employment in the field of early childhood
2. Demonstration of basic knowledge in working with infants, toddlers, and preschool children
3. Supplements to a child-related degree or credential that does not include instruction on infants, toddlers, or preschool children
4. Supplements to a degree or credential outside the field of early childhood

Additionally, successful completion of courses for the Endorsements can fulfill professional development options for teaching licensure renewal requirements, annual licensing requirements, and professional development options for early childhood professionals participating in Virginia's Star Quality Initiative Program. The courses can also be used to meet the training requirements for the **Child Development Associate (CDA)** credential.

Participants have two options by which to achieve an Endorsement:

1. Successful completion of the required VDSS-sponsored classroom-based or online courses as outlined on page 8
2. Successful completion of the required college credit courses offered by the Virginia Community College System outlined below:
   • Infant and Toddler Endorsement –
     CHD 166 Infant and Toddler Programs
   • Preschool Endorsement –
     CHD 120 Introduction to Early Childhood Education
   • Early Childhood Endorsement I –
     CHD 145 Teaching Art, Music and Movement to Children
   • Early Childhood Endorsement II –
     EDU 235 Health, Safety and Nutrition Education

OPTION 1 – PARTICIPATION VIA COMPLETION OF VDSS-SPONSORED COURSES

Individuals who wish to obtain either of the Endorsements must:
- Register to attend the component courses outlined on page 8 (classroom-based or online)
- Complete all required courses
- Complete all assessments and submit to VDSS for grading
- Achieve a passing score of 70% or higher to receive either of the Endorsements

OPTION 2 – PARTICIPATION VIA COMPLETION OF COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES

Upon successful completion of the appropriate college credit course as noted above, participants are eligible to apply for the corresponding VDSS Endorsement. Individuals who wish to apply for either Endorsement based upon completion of college credit courses must:
- Complete the application (available at **www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/professionals_resources.cgi**)
- Enclose a copy of the college transcript or Letter of Completion from your instructor
- Submit application, transcript or letter, and processing fee for each endorsement requested to VDSS.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH VDSS ENDORSEMENT

Infant and Toddler Endorsement

The Infant and Toddler Endorsement requires completion of the following 12 classroom-based or online courses. Successful completion of each course provides 4 clock hours of training credit. The courses can be taken in any sequence.
- Ages and Stages of Development for Infants and Toddlers
- Beyond Babble: Exploring Early Language Development
- Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognition and Reporting
- Creating an Appropriate Learning Environment for Infants and Toddlers
- Early Childhood Theorists (Online or Independent Study)
- Guiding the Behaviors of Infants and Toddlers
- Health Screening for Child Care Professionals
- Nurturing Productive Partnerships with Parents
- Observation and Recording
- Planning Activities for Infants and Toddlers
- Preventing Injuries in the Child Care Environment
- Understanding Temperaments of Infants and Toddlers

Preschool Endorsement

The Preschool Endorsement requires completion of the following 12 classroom-based or online courses. Successful completion of each course provides 4 clock hours of training credit. The courses can be taken in any sequence.
- Ages and Stages of Development for Preschool Children
- Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognition and Reporting
- Creating an Age-Appropriate Learning Environment for Preschool Children
- Early Childhood Theorists (Online or Independent Study)
- Exploring Brain Development
- Guiding the Behaviors of Preschool Children

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Early Childhood Endorsement Program (ECEP) , cont'd

- Health Screening for Child Care Professionals
- Nurturing Productive Partnerships with Parents
- Observation and Recording
- Planning Appropriate Activities for Preschool Children
- Preventing Injuries in the Child Care Environment
- Reframing Discipline

Early Childhood Endorsement I
The Early Childhood Endorsement I requires completion of the following 13 classroom-based or online courses. Successful completion of each course provides 4 clock hours of training credit. The courses can be taken in any sequence.
- Creative Junk for Fun and Learning
- Facilitating Brain Development in Young Children
- Incorporating Creativity into Early Childhood Curricula
- Movin' and Groovin': Using Movement to Help Young Children Learn
- Music in the Early Childhood Classroom
- Observing and Recording the Creative Process in Young Children
- Pinch, Pull, Twist, and Turn – Small Motor Development in Early Childhood
- Promoting Creativity and Including All Children
- Roles of Imagination, Play and Dramatic Play in Early Childhood
- Storytelling in the Early Childhood Curriculum
- Three-Dimensional Creative Activities for Young Children
- Two-Dimensional Creative Activities for Young Children
- Why is Creativity Important?

Early Childhood Endorsement II
The Early Childhood Endorsement II requires completion of the following 12 classroom-based or online courses. Successful completion of each course provides 4 clock hours of training credit. The courses can be taken in any sequence.
- Chronic Health Conditions in Early Childhood
- Controlling Communicable Illness in the Early Childhood Classroom
- Creative, Healthy Cooking with Young Children
- Developing Healthy Habits in Young Children
- Ethics for Early Childhood Professionals
- Food Safety in the Child Care Environment
- Health Makes a Difference in Early Childhood
- Making Meal Times Fun in the Early Childhood Classroom
- Management of Injuries and Acute Illness in Early Childhood
- Nutritional Guidelines in Early Childhood
- Safety in a Quality Early Childhood Environment
- Teaching Young Children about Health, Safety and Nutrition

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:
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www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/professionals_resources.cgi

COMING SOON! PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REGISTRY FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE PROFESSION
Virginia is one of a few states that do not currently have a statewide professional development registry.

A professional development registry is a tool used by the early childhood development and school-age care profession to:
- promote professional growth and development,
- gather and maintain core data, e.g., training and education, regarding providers and trainers and the training offered to providers,
- place individuals on one of the Career Lattice Step levels based on verified education and training information,
- recognize and honor professional achievements of early childhood development and school-age care professionals, and
- inform policy makers and partners, e.g., by tracking the impact of public and private investments in quality supports to child care programs.

Why join the registry?
- The registry tracks professional education and development (for all training) and provides a pathway (career lattice placement based on education and training) for child care providers who wish to advance in their career;
- Since education and training is verified by registry staff through submission of proper documentation (e.g., college transcripts, training certificates, etc.), a staff professional development record, which will be developed for each registry member, could potentially be used to verify compliance with licensing, accreditation, Virginia Star Quality Initiative, and credentialing requirements;
- The registry can assist individuals and program directors in professional development planning;
- The registry will help provide data on Virginia's early childhood and school-age care profession - data that we really haven't had access to in the past;
- The registry will provide recognition for providers' training and education by providing a Registry Certificate that can be posted and/or shared with employers and/or parents;
- The registry will have a trainer and training approval component, which will assist providers in finding quality trainers and training; and
- The registry will be Web-based and will provide access to a variety of helpful resources and information, including a resume builder, links to useful resources, information updates, frequently asked questions, etc.

LOOK FOR NEWS ABOUT THIS EXCITING, USEFUL TOOL IN THE NEAR FUTURE!

School-Age Child Care Endorsement

ALL-NEW SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE ENDORSEMENT!

Virginia Department of Social Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Development announces the ALL-NEW School-Age Child Care Endorsement! This endorsement is designed to provide basic knowledge for working with children 5 to 12 years old in any school-age child care program (e.g., before/after care, summer child care, family day home). Twelve all-new classroom-based and online courses have been developed to provide high quality training for school-age child care professionals in Virginia.

The VDSS School-Age Endorsement can be valuable as:
- Entry-level credential for employment in the field of school-age child care
- Demonstration of basic knowledge in working with children 5 to 12
- Supplement to a child-related degree or credential that does not include instruction on working with school-age children in a child care setting
- Supplement to a degree or credential outside the field of school-age child care

Additionally, completion of classes for the School-Age Child Care Endorsement can be used toward compliance with annual VDSS licensing requirements.

Individuals who wish to obtain the VDSS School-Age Child Care Endorsement must:
- Register to attend the component courses outlined below
- Complete all required courses
- Complete all assessments and submit to VDSS for grading
- Achieve a passing score of 70% or higher to receive the School-Age Child Care Endorsement

The School-Age Child Care Endorsement requires successful completion of the following 12 classroom-based or online courses. Successful completion of each course provides 4 clock hours of training credit. The courses can be taken in any sequence.
- Ages & Stages of Development for School-Age Children 5 to 8
- Ages and Stages of Development for School-Age Children 9 to 12
- Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognition and Reporting for School-Age Children
- Clubs and Special Interest Groups for School-Age Children
- Creating Appropriate Learning Environments in School-Age Child Care
- Guiding the Behaviors of School-Age Children
- Health Screening for Child Care Professionals
- Homework, Holiday and Summer Activities for School-Age Children
- Observation and Recording of School-Age Children
- Partnerships with Parents of School-Age Children
- Planning Appropriate Activities for School-Age Children
- Preventing Injuries in the School-Age Environment

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:
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ALL-NEW ONLINE TRAINING COURSES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS!

The Virginia Department of Social Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Development announces the development of 55 online training courses available in Fall 2011. In addition to the availability of classroom-based courses, all courses for the Early Childhood and School-Age Endorsements (pp. 7-9) will be available **ONLINE**. Registration for the online courses follows the same procedures as registration for classroom-based courses (pp. 1-4).

Online training offers these benefits:
- Access to training without restrictions on time or location and based on individual needs and schedules
- Eliminates and reduces the total amount of time needed for training and training-related travel
- Allows participants to progress through training at their own pace – exiting courses, if needed and returning to where they left off for completion
- Ensures clear, consistent and instructionally-sound training that is interactive and promotes a deeper understanding of content
- Allows participants to verify their understanding of the information presented through Knowledge Checks
- Earning a Certificate of Completion upon successfully completing each course
- Presents additional resources to advance learning and professional development
- Access to courses as reference material for a period of time after completion

REGISTER TODAY!

MAT Requirements for Licensed and Regulated Child Day Programs

Code of Virginia
Drug Control Act CHAPTER 34.
§ 54.1-3408. Professional use by practitioners.
O. In addition, this section shall not prevent the administration of drugs by a person to a child in a child day program as defined in *§ 63.2-100* and regulated by the State Board of Social Services, the Child Day Care Council, or a local government pursuant to *§ 15.2-914*, provided such person (i) has satisfactorily completed a training program for this purpose approved by the Board of Nursing and taught by a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, doctor of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or pharmacist; (ii) has obtained written authorization from a parent or guardian; (iii) administers drugs only to the child identified on the prescription label in accordance with the prescriber's instructions pertaining to dosage, frequency, and manner of administration; and (iv) administers only those drugs that were dispensed from a pharmacy and maintained in the original, labeled container that would normally be administered by a parent or guardian to the child.

Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers and Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes
The regulations for licensed child day centers and family day homes contain a standard that goes beyond the requirements of the law and require medication administration training for anyone who administers prescription AND non-prescription medications.

CHILD DAY PROGRAMS	MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION TRAINING
Child day centers (licensed)	Training required for administration of Prescription and Non-Prescription medications
Family day homes (licensed)	Training required for administration of Prescription and Non-Prescription medications
Religiously exempt child day centers (regulated)	Training required only for administration of Prescription medications
Voluntarily registered family day homes (regulated)	Training required only for administration of Prescription medications
Family day homes approved by a (licensed) Family Day System	Training required only for administration of Prescription medications
Certified preschools (regulated)	Training required only for administration of Prescription medications
Local ordinance approved family day homes	Training required only for administration of Prescription medications

Important Information
- **Get Answers to MAT Training Questions –** For answers to questions about MAT training, including MAT curriculum content, MAT procedures/processes, MAT or PMAT classes, MAT recertification, MAT/PMAT training certificates, approved MAT trainers, etc., contact **Medical Home Plus (MHP)** at: *MAT@medhomeplus.org*. MHP administers and manages the MAT Program under contract with VDSS.
- **Best Practice –** The Medication Administration Training for Child Day Programs teaches BEST PRACTICE and covers the administration of all medications, both prescription and non-prescription.
- **MAT Recertification –** MAT Certification is valid for three (3) years from the issue date indicated on the MAT Certificate. Providers and/or staff members must be recertified **prior to the date the certificate expires** in order to continue to administer medication to children in a child day program.
- **Two Options for Completing the MAT Course:**
  - *Classroom-based* – Providers may choose to complete the MAT course in a classroom setting with an approved MAT Trainer. Providers must attend the entire class and successfully pass the written and skills competencies. **Class size is limited to 8 participants.**
  - *Independent Study* – Providers may choose to complete the MAT course by independent study. The MAT Independent Study is made up of two parts. Part One is a self-paced, online review of the MAT course content using MAT course handouts, video segments and independent exercises. Part Two consists of hands-on practice time and testing with an approved MAT Trainer. Providers must successfully pass the written test and skills competencies. **Class size for Part Two of the MAT Independent Study is limited to 4 participants.** For more information on the MAT Independent Study visit: *www.medhomeplus.org/MAT/index.php*, scroll to MAT Independent Study for Child Day Programs in Virginia and click on the link to the instructions.
- **Find a MAT or PMAT Class –** To find scheduled Medication Administration Training (MAT) and Pre-Medication Administration Training (PMAT) classes, visit the VDSS website at: *www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc_providertrain/tips.cgi*, scroll through the class listings. Be sure to contact the class sponsor for class details or registration information.
- **Find/Contact an Approved MAT Trainer –** To find/contact an approved Medication Administration Training (MAT) trainer, visit the Medical Home Plus website at: *www.medhomeplus.org/MAT/index.php*, under (MAT) Medication Administration Training, scroll to Find a MAT Trainer Near You.